Keddy Mill Site Windham, ME

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM *protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.*

INTRODUCTION:

On May 12, 2014 EPA announced that the Keddy Mill Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) on sites, which is also referred to as the Superfund list. Listing on the NPL means that this Site is eligible for long-term cleanup action under the federal Superfund program. The Site has historically been utilized for various industrial purposes; most recently as a steel manufacturing facility in the 1960 and 1970's. Prior investigations have identified the presence of hazardous substances, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Electrical capacitors and transformers containing PCBs were utilized in the steel manufacturing process. This discovery resulted in two limited excavations of contaminated soil and building materials for off-site disposal in 1997 and 2010.

BACKGROUND:

The Keddy Mill site (the "Site") is located at 7 Depot Street in the Little Falls portion of Windham, Maine. The Site consists of approximately 6.9 acres and is located in a mixed commercial/residential area. It is bounded by Depot Street to the north, a former Maine Central Railroad right-of-way to the east, undeveloped property and the Presumpscot River to the south, and by Route 202/Main Street and an operational hydroelectric facility to the west. The Site is currently vacant and is largely covered with a two-story concrete/brick industrial mill building constructed on a concrete/soil foundation with a full basement level. This building was reportedly constructed in the early 1900s. The Site formerly contained several other industrial buildings which have since been demolished. The Site is currently fenced and there are an unknown number of private drinking water sources (i.e.; drilled water supply wells) located in the general vicinity of the Site.

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN:

Site soils and building materials are known to be contaminated with a mix of PCBs, heavy metals and petroleum hydrocarbons. Due to the age of the building structure, there is likely asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint in the building. Results of sediment samples collected in the Presumpscot River indicate elevated concentrations of PCBs. No groundwater data is currently available. While the Site is posted and fenced, there is evidence of recent building trespassing.

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WHAT TO EXPECT:

Sampling activities began in October of 2015 and will resume again in Spring 2016 to further investigation of the Site and determine the current conditions. This investigation is known as a Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI will primarily include collection and analysis of samples from soil, surface water, sediments, groundwater and fish tissue. The RI will identify the nature and extent of Site contamination and the potential human health and environmental risks that the Site may pose. The results of this study will be used to develop a Feasibility Study (FS) which will identify what cleanup measures may be necessary. The RI/FS is scheduled to be developed between 2015-2017.